

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF INSURANCE MEDICINE

2007 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

JOURNAL OF INSURANCE MEDICINE REPORT

Ross MacKenzie, Editor

Sept, 30, 2007

1. Publication Schedule

- Volume 38 (4) was mailed January 11, 2007.
- Volume 39(1) was mailed April 10, 2007.
- Volume 39(2) was mailed September 20, 2007.
- Volume 39(3) has closed for submissions and copyediting has been completed for transfer to the publisher for printing with an expected mail date of November 30, 2007.
- Articles for Volume 39(4) are currently undergoing review. Expected mail date will be January 25, 2007.

2. Organization

- Editorial succession process has been completed. Lara Burita continues as editorial assistant. John LoCascio has accepted the position of Associate Editor for Disability Insurance.

3. Content

- Disability section has been added.
- Manuscript submission rates have increased slightly but remain marginal so that the each issue of the *Journal* continues to rely heavily on a few regular contributors and regular features coordinated by the Associate Editors. This has been a recurring theme in reports by the previous editor. It is a serious issue for the Executive Council of AAIM to address. Submissions from the leadership of AAIM would set a good precedent.

4. Financial

- Costs per issue have remained stable over the few years: \$93 per printed page, \$8500 per issue (based on 2006 figures from Ken Krause). Annual cost per active member is approximately \$105 (based on 4 issues).
- Two potential expenses being considered include a manuscript tracking system and the addition of an electronic version of the *Journal*. These are discussed below.

5. Manuscript Tracking System

- We are planning to begin using a web-based manuscript submission, tracking and peer-review software program. This technology is used by most medical journals to perform essential editorial office tracking functions. The system we have chosen is that provided by Allen Press and is designed for small-circulation journals.

6. Electronic Publishing

- Most medical organizations now publish an electronic version of their journal. With revamping of AAIM's website this should now be seriously considered. Advantages are many and include: online password protected access, faster turnaround time for articles selected for publication, faster (and eventually paperless) distribution of the *Journal*, article display in HTML (Hypertext Markup Language which allows reference linking) and PDF (Printable/Portable Document Format) versions, search capabilities, archived article access and automated issue alerts. Disadvantages include additional costs especially when continuing to publish a paper-based version and lack of access by a small number of subscribers. In discussions with Allen Press, annual projected costs after initial development fees would be approximately \$13,000.

Ross MacKenzie MD, FRCP(C), FACC
Editor